

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



Interim Executive Officer's Report
March 10, 2016

Contents

Staff Activities	2
A. Basin Planning Unit	2
B. Underground Storage Tank/Cleanup Unit	2
C. Total Maximum Daily Load Unit.....	3
D. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Unit.....	4
E. Non-Chapter 15, Chapter 15 Unit	5
F. Administrative Unit.....	6
Issues of Regional Significance.....	7
A. New River Pollution from Mexico	7
B. Salton Sea.....	8
C. Environmental Justice	8
D. PG&E's Topock Compressor Station Cleanup	8
Personnel and Administration	10
Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB)	12
Regional Water Board Action Items.....	12

Staff Activities

A. Basin Planning Unit

Unit Chief: Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist, P.G.

Since January 2016, the Basin Planning Unit activities have focused on: (1) the proposed Basin Plan amendment to revise the Discharge Prohibition for Septic System in the Town of Yucca Valley; (2) preparing a staff report for the Regional Water Board regarding the status of the proposed Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Coachella Valley; and (3) continuing working on the 2014 Triennial Review priority issues. Item 1 is described in more detail below.

Proposed Amendment for Yucca Valley Prohibition—On February 8, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer met with Hi-Desert Water District (District) staff and consultants to discuss, in substantive part, the proposed Amendment's milestones and deadlines for constructing the centralized sewage collection system and Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) for Yucca Valley and the additional monitoring and reporting requirements for the District. They also discussed studies required by the Waste Discharge Requirements Order R7-2015-0043 for the District WRF. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

Board staff also held a Public Workshop on February 4, 2016, at the District's office in Yucca Valley. The purpose of the workshop was to provide affected stakeholders additional opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendment. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES*]

B. Underground Storage Tank/Cleanup Unit

Unit Chief: John Carmona, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP)—Coachella Valley is lead for this Plan. Unit staff is also participating in the IRWMP meetings to provide regulatory guidance and to advocate for better sewer infrastructure and services for economically disadvantaged communities in the eastern Coachella Valley. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

Environmental Complaint Notification Web Page—Unit staff has developed a web page for our Region, which provides information on how to file an environmental complaint. The web page also provides information on local contacts. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

USEPA Brownfields Program—Unit staff continues to work with USEPA to identify leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) at sites that can be assessed by USEPA for free under the Program. [*Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE*]

Low-Threat Closure Policy—Unit staff continues to perform more extensive review of cases to identify and address impediments to case closure. [*Rosalyn Fleming, Kola Olatunbosun, and Phan Le, WRCEs*]

Environmental Justice—Please refer to “Environmental Justice” Section of this report (p. 8).

C. Total Maximum Daily Load Unit

Unit Chief: Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist, Ph.D.

Coachella Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs—On January 11, 2016, the Interim Assistant Executive Officer and Unit staff met with representatives of the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition (CVILC) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to discuss the need for toxicity and fish tissue monitoring for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. The Channel is impaired by toxicity and by organochlorine pesticides that are bioaccumulating in fish tissue. During the meeting, CVILC agreed to request its management consider monitoring fish tissue once a year for three years¹. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, PhD, P.E.*]

Imperial Valley Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs—On January 14, 2016, Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau Executive Director), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District Project Manager), and Regional Water Board staff Nadim Shukry-Zeywar and Logan Raub held the quarterly meeting of the Waiver’s Technical Management Committee. The main issues discussed during the meeting were the technical reports required by the Waiver, enforcement against farmers who fail to comply with the Waiver, and upcoming outreach and education events (e.g., Annual Drainshed meetings). [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa Agricultural Conditional Waiver of WDRs—On January 21, 2016, Unit staff met with representatives of the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition and Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) to discuss implementation of the Waiver. The meeting focused on the monitoring reports required by the Waiver, appropriate detection limits for water samples, drafting General WDRs to replace the Waiver, and options to address the impairments of the Palo Verde Outfall Drain and the Palo Verde Outfall Lagoon. The Waiver will expire this year in September. The Drain and Lagoon are impaired by legacy pesticides (DDT and Toxaphene), which are still bioaccumulating in fish tissue, and chloride and bacteria. [*Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.*]

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Roundtable—On January 27 and 28, 2016, Region 7 hosted the Roundtable meeting. Meeting participants included representatives from the State Water Resources Control Board, USEPA, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and Regions 1 through 8. Chair Way welcomed the participants to Region 7 and talked about the importance of agriculture. The meeting included a field trip to observe farming practices in the Coachella Valley. The trip was sponsored by the Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition and Coachella Valley Water District. Key issues discussed during the meeting including economic considerations when preparing WDRs for agricultural runoff, CDFA’s Fertilizer Research and Education Program, Region 7’s lessons learned with its Conditional Waivers for agriculture in the Region, agricultural fees, the State Non-point Source Program,

¹ Upon discussing the matter with the Interim Executive Officer after the meeting, Unit staff concluded that at this point review of the available data does not justify asking the farming community also to conduct toxicity monitoring.

and overall implementation of Waivers and Orders for agriculture in other Regions. [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.]

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Roundtable—On February 24 and 25, 2016, Region 7 hosted the TMDL Roundtable meeting. Representatives from all Regional Water Boards, the State Water Board, and USEPA participated in the meeting. The meeting also included a field trip to the Sonny Bono Salton Sea Wildlife Refuge. The main items discussed during the meeting included TMDL Program Management, workplans, report cards, strategic planning, and implementation. [Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior ES, Ph.D.]

D. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Unit

Unit Chief, Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E., Ph.D.

City of Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plant—The City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Plant is expiring on May 31, 2016. The City is also under a Cease and Desist Order that requires the City to undertake and complete Plant improvements by December 2016. Unit staff inspected the Plant to renew the permit and check the City's progress in implementing the Plant's improvement project. Staff will recommend the Board renew the Permit for the Plant at the Board's May meeting. During the inspection, the Plant Operator indicated the City is ahead of schedule to complete the improvements. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, P.E.; Anders Wistrom, WRCE, P.E.]

City of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant—The City is requesting Board approval for proposed modifications to its approved Pretreatment Program. The proposed modification consists of using mass-based limitations, in addition to concentration-based limits—to control the discharge from the Pioneers Memorial Hospital—a Significant Industrial User. Unit staff has reviewed the City's proposed modification and determined that it: (a) will not affect Plant compliance with the City's NPDES Permit; and (b) does not substantially change the Board approved Pretreatment Program and, therefore, does not require Board approval. Subsequently, staff informed the City that it can proceed and implement the modifications. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, P.E.; Anders Wistrom, WRCE, P.E.]

Water Quality Certifications—The Table shown below lists the recent applications for Water Quality Certification and their status.

Applications Received	Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project
<u>02/02/2016</u>	Under Review	Union Pacific Railroad	Union Pacific Railroad - Milepost (MP) 657.99 Culvert Installation Project
<u>02/01/2016</u>	Under Review	Coachella Valley Water District	CVWD Whitewater Park Concrete Slope Protection

Applications Received	Orders Issued/Denied	Applicant	Project
<u>12/17/2015</u>	Under Review	The Metropolitan Water Districts of Southern California	Whitewater River / Colorado River Aqueduct Siphon Scour Protection Project
<u>12/16/2015</u>	Issued on 02/16/2016	Davidson Communities	Line 29 – Tahquitz Creek Storm Drain Outlet Project
<u>11/20/2015</u>	Issued on 01/20/2016	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Mohave Valley Conservation Area Project
<u>10/12/2015</u>	Issued on 01/15/2016	Blythe Mesa Solar, LLC.	Blythe Mesa Solar Project
<u>09/30/2015</u>	Under Review	Teras Resources, Inc.	Cahuilla Gold Mining Project Phase 3
<u>09/29/2015</u>	Issued on <u>01/06/2016</u>	Imperial Valley Solar 2, LLC	Imperial Valley Solar 2, LLC - Mount Signal Solar 2 Project

E. Non-Chapter 15, Chapter 15 Unit

Unit Chief: Doug Wylie, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.

Local Agency Management Programs (LAMP) Development—Board staff continues to work with Riverside, Imperial, and San Bernardino County Health Departments' staff to collaborate on the development of their LAMPs. Riverside County staff submitted a revised Draft LAMP for review and comment on February 11, 2016. [*Mary Serra, Supervising WRCE, P.E.*]

Composting General Order—The State Water Board certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopted the General Order for composting activities on August 4, 2015. Regional Water Board staff will coordinate with local compost companies in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys to enroll them in the General Order. On January 29, 2016, staff met with SA Recycling in Thousand Palms to discuss its Report of Waste Discharge. [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE*]

Earthrise Nutritionals—Unit staff met with representatives of the Discharger on February 11, 2016, to discuss the status of the revised Report of Waste Discharge for this facility. Staff has determined that the facility needs to be regulated pursuant to Title 27, Division 2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR Title 27), which prescribes waste containment through double-lined waste management units (WMUs) and comprehensive monitoring of the discharge

and integrity of the containment units, among other requirements. The proposed WDRs for the facility will be tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Board in May. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.; Jennie Snyder, WRCE, P.E.*]

Mountain Shadows Subdivision, Palm Desert—Representatives from the Homeowner's Association met with Board staff on February 12, 2016, to discuss financial assistance to comply with a City of Palm Desert ordinance, which requires the 16-unit development to connect to the sewer system because a sewer line is available within 200 feet of the subdivision. Staff encouraged the HOA to comply with the ordinance and to coordinate their efforts with CVWD and the City. [*Abdi Haile, Robert Perdue, Doug Wylie*]

New River Monitoring at the International Boundary—Unit staff conducted the monthly monitoring of the New River at the International Boundary on February 3, 2016. Mike Gugino from the State Water Board Health & Safety Office observed staff on that date and has prepared the final draft of the New River Sampling Health and Safety Guidelines. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.; Abid Khalaf, WRCE*]

Global Waste Management Symposium 2016—Jennie Snyder attended the symposium, which was held on February 1-3, 2016, in Indian Wells. The symposium is North America's leading technical conference for the presentation of applied and fundamental research and case studies on waste management that only comes around once every two years. [*Jennie Snyder, WRCE*]

F. Administrative Unit

Unit Chief: Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Manager

Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project—Unit staff continues to work closely with State Water Board Division of Information Technology (DIT) staff to implement the audio/visual and related improvements to the Board meeting room. Early this month, DIT staff adjusted the Board room's microphones for better reception, ordered additional microphones so that each Board Member has one microphone and bought a digital recorder for the meetings. The microphones have been tested and calibrated. The digital recorder is fully functional as well. DIT will be ordering a new dais and new chairs for the Board, installing monitors for each Board Member, and installing a new TV screen for the rear part of the Board room in the near future. [*Mary Castaneda, Associate Governmental Program Analyst*]

Board Workshops and March 2016 Board Meeting—On February 26, 2016, the Unit completed compiling the Agenda for the March 10, 2016 Board meeting and assisted with the posting of all related Public Notices for actionable and informational items. The Unit also completed the preparations for and assisted during the February 20, 2016 Policy Prioritization Board Workshop; and has completed arrangements for the March 3, 2016 Information Public Board Workshop. [*Mary Castaneda, Associate Governmental Program Analyst*]

Office Visitors and Public Records Act Request: During the January 2016 to February 17, 2016 period:

- The office had 40 visitors. [*Terri Barnes, Office Technician*]
- The office received and responded to thirty-seven (37) PRA requests. [*Soni Wells, Associate Governmental Program Analyst*]

Records Retention Project—Unit staff continues to sort, organize, and prepare for shipping to Sacramento historic files so they can be archived at the State Records Center. Staff is currently working on stormwater program files. [*Terri Barnes, Office Technician*]

Issues of Regional Significance

A. New River Pollution from Mexico

New River in Calexico—On January 28, 2016, Vice Chair Wright and Interim Executive Officer Jose L. Angel attended a Community Meeting in Calexico to discuss proposed modifications to the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan's recommendations for Calexico. The meeting was sponsored by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella). The meeting was well attended (> 50 participants) and participants included City and County elected officials, Assemblyman Garcia, city residents, representatives from Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial Valley College, and other non-governmental organizations (e.g., Calexico New River Committee and Comité Civico del Valle). There was also media coverage. Elected officials and Vice Chair Wright made opening remarks for the meeting. The New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan recommends a trash screen, conveyance system, and a disinfection facility to address New River pollution in Calexico. During the meeting, Mr. Angel presented the proposed modification, which consists of eliminating the disinfection facility and using wetlands downstream from Calexico to treat the contaminants in the New River. The proposed modifications are necessary to address diminishing flows in the New River at the Border with Mexico and economic concerns with the disinfection facility. There was overwhelming community support for the proposed modifications and for implementing them. Also, the proposed modifications will have a more direct benefit to the Salton Sea because they would contribute cleaner river water to the Salton Sea. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

On February 1, 2016, Mr. Angel attended the meeting of the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to brief the Council about the Calexico Community Meeting and to recommend the Council incorporate the proposed modifications to the Strategic Plan. CalEPA Secretary Rodriguez, Council Chair, accepted the recommendations on behalf of the Council. By letter dated February 25, 2016, Secretary Rodriguez forwarded to the California Legislature the revised Strategic Plan. The Council is working with representatives from the Governor's Office and the Legislature regarding funding to implement the plan. Board staff will continue to assist the Council with the implementation of the plan. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

New River in Mexicali—Jose L. Angel participated in the Annual Binational Observation Tour of the New River in Mexicali on February 24, 2016; the bimonthly Binational Observation Tour of the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali on February 25, 2016; and the Binational Technical Committee (BTC) meeting on February 25, 2016. The annual tour is conducted to observe industrial discharges into the New River Watershed that, because of their remote location from the metropolitan area, cannot be covered during the bimonthly tours. Mr. Angel will be preparing a report for the tours. During the BTC meeting, Baja California reported on the overall progress to address sewage infrastructure that is in need of repair/replacement. It reported that it has completed reconstructing sewage Pumping Plant No. 3 and started work on rebuilding Pumping Plant No. 1. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

B. Salton Sea

Salton Sea Restoration—Board staff Jeff Geraci is the office’s coordinator for Salton Sea restoration activities. The Natural Resources Agency is the state lead for Salton Sea restoration efforts. Salton Sea Assistant Secretary Bruce Wilcox invited the Board staff to become members of the Planning Workgroup and the Outreach and Education Workgroup, which have been formed by his Agency to assist with and provide input to the restoration efforts. Mr. Geraci will be representing the office in the Planning Workgroup. A Board staff is being presently designated to participate in the Outreach and Education Workgroup. On January 22, 2016, the Interim Executive Officer and other Board staff met with Assistant Secretary Bruce Wilcox to discuss his Agency’s restoration priorities and water quality control regulatory needs. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.; Jeff Geraci, ES*]

The Interim Executive Officer is periodically meeting with Salton Sea Authority Executive Director Phil Rosentrater since January 2016 to discuss water quality control policy for the Salton Sea, restoration efforts, and opportunities to partner with the Authority to implement projects that assist with the restoration efforts. [*Jose L. Angel, P.E.*]

C. Environmental Justice

Ms. Maria Davydova, Environmental Scientist, has been designated as the Regional Water Board’s Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator. In this capacity, she is responsible for representing the office at various EJ Task Forces and community events. The following paragraphs describe some the recent Board staff activities in this area.

Environmental Justice—Unit staff participated in the Imperial Valley Environmental Justice Task Force’s January 21 and February 18, 2016, regularly scheduled meetings. Staff also co-chaired the January 20 and February 17, 2016 Eastern Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Task Force regularly scheduled meetings. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

“Polanco” Mobile Home Trailer Parks (MHTPs)—The term “Polanco Trailer Park” (a.k.a. “Polancos” for short) was coined after Assembly Bill 3525, which was sponsored by then Senator Richard Polanco. The bill granted certain regulatory, tax, and conditional use permit exemptions to small MHTPs (less than 13 units) built to provide housing to farm workers. Ultimately, the bill resulted in the proliferation of over 400 unregulated MHTPs, many of which were built in a manner that failed to comply with building codes. Consequently, they are plagued by serious infrastructure problems. It is estimated that there are more than 120 Polancos in the Coachella Valley. Unit staff is regularly attending meetings with the Riverside County Economic Development Agency to help address water and sewer infrastructure problems faced by Polancos. [*Maria Davydova, ES*]

D. PG&E’s Topock Compressor Station Cleanup

Board management and staff met with PG&E staff and their counsel on February 24 at PG&E’s request to provide an update on the status of (1) PG&E’s preparation of a Report of Waste Discharge for the PG&E Topock Compressor Station’s (TCS’s) lined surface impoundments (“ponds”) and pond activities being conducted or planned; (2) the Tribal recommendation to implement a different ground water remedy; (3) Interim Measures-3 (IM-3) treatment plant water reuse options during construction of the groundwater remedy infrastructure; (4) enhanced

extraction issues for IM-3; and (5) the proposed November 9, 2016 R7 Board member tour of the TCS. The ponds are regulated under active WDRs, Board Order R7-2004-0080, for disposal of cooling tower blowdown. The TCS is a component of the PG&E pipeline system that conveys natural gas from the southwestern U.S. to northern California. Each of these topics is described below.

1. PG&E is proposing to discharge two additional waste streams to the surface impoundments. The first waste stream is approximately 210,000 gallons of treated pipeline hydrostatic test water. By letter dated February 25, 2016, I approved this proposed discharge under the existing delegated authority within the active WDRs. The second waste stream is non-hazardous wastes produced during maintenance of the injection and extraction wells that are needed for cleanup of the large Hexavalent Chromium plume in groundwater adjacent to the Colorado River. Updated WDRs, adopted by the Board, will be necessary for disposal of this waste stream to the impoundments. Also, the WDRs are more than 10 years old now (2004) and need to be updated in any event to reflect current TCS conditions.
 - a. CEQA for Updated WDRs—During the meeting, Board staff discussed whether the existing CEQA documents (EIRs) sufficiently evaluated the proposed operational changes of the discharges to the ponds so that no further CEQA review is required in connection with the impending WDR renewal. PG&E asserts they did. We requested PG&E to support its assertion in writing by pointing out exactly where in the CEQA documents the proposed two additional waste streams and operational changes were evaluated, explaining that we would need to make specific Findings in the WDRs to support our CEQA determination.
 - b. Date for Updated WDRs—As for timing, we made it clear that it would be more likely than not that we would propose bringing the draft updated WDRs to the Board for its consideration of adoption at its September 15, 2016 Board meeting, due to the need to meet public notice and comment requirements. Also, we suggested that it might be helpful, if PG&E were amenable to the idea, to have PG&E update the Board in person on all of the items discussed today either in a Workshop setting before that hearing or as an Informational Item at the June 30, 2016 Board meeting. If a Workshop was selected by PG&E, we suggested holding it in May 2016. PG&E appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Board in either venue, and indicated it would get back to us on its preference.
 - c. Pond Activities—PG&E noted that from time to time leachate beneath Pond #3 has been detected by the TCS gas operations team. (PG&E reminded us that the main purpose of the ponds is to serve TCS gas operations. Thus, PG&E said the gas operations team is separate from the team assigned to handle the hexavalent chromium contamination remediation efforts.) The gas operations team explained that each of the ponds, which have been in operation for decades now (1960s/1970s), has three synthetic liners on top of a clay liner. Thus, they said that it was unusual to find any leachate beneath Pond #3. PG&E added that the leachate sampled is characteristic of TCS gas operations. PG&E representatives said that they think it may be a breach in the top liner, but that they will evaluate the situation further and submit a report to the Board regarding their findings. They also noted that about one year ago lysimeters were replaced under Pond #2 due to being broken. They explained that the lysimeters sit below the clay layer and are used to detect any leakage.

2. Tribal Pump and Treat (P/T): PG&E discussed how one of the Tribes, the Hualapai Tribe, unexpectedly introduced at the last Consultative Working Group (CWG) meeting, held on January 20, 2016, the idea that a different remedy should be used than the one selected by DTSC and DOI, which was approved and signed off on pursuant to a Consent Decree lodged with the federal court a few years ago now. DTSC management made it clear that having to essentially “start over” with the remedy evaluation and selection process is not reasonable. But DTSC said that if the Tribe wished to pursue this idea, it should submit a formal request in writing. PG&E reported that no such written request has been submitted to date. As a result, the selected “flushing” groundwater remedy is proceeding as planned and agreed upon.
3. The IM-3 treatment plant was constructed as an emergency measure in 2003/2004 (1) to provide hydraulic control of the hexavalent chromium contamination plume so that the plume would not reach the Colorado River; and (2) to pump and treat through an activated carbon system the plume to reduce the hexavalent chromium to harmless trivalent chromium. PG&E indicated that it has been quite successful to date in treating about ¼ of the total amount of hexavalent chromium estimated to be present in the groundwater. PG&E is hoping to re-use the treated IM-3 water during construction of the groundwater remedy infrastructure to reduce the need to use other potable water sources.
4. PG&E also briefly discussed how it had proposed to DTSC about seven years ago an idea of providing enhanced extraction for IM-3, which, it determined through modeling, might have reduced the total hexavalent chromium plume by 50% by now. But PG&E said that for whatever reason, DTSC did not seem that interested in the idea, so it was dropped.
5. Topock Tour: PG&E will coordinate with Mary Castaneda (who attended this meeting) to handle the logistics of transportation, food, etc., for the Board members to tour the Topock Compressor Station and the hexavalent chromium contamination remediation site.

Personnel and Administration

January 20, 2016 All-staff meeting—There were 21 Board staff who attended the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by the Interim Assistant Executive Officer. Items discussed during the meeting included:

- Feedback about the January 14, 2016, Board meeting;
- Preparations for the Board February 20, 2016 Policy Prioritization Public Board Workshop;
- Preparations for the March 10, 2016 Board Meeting;
- Status of the UC Davis Leadership Effort; and
- Key Unit projects.

The next all-staff meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2016. [*Abdi Haile, P.G.*]

Management Team Meetings—The Board’s management team meets on a weekly basis. The purpose of these meetings is to exchange information on Unit project status, personnel matters, upcoming Board meetings and workshops, feedback on Board meetings and workshops, and administrative matters to improve communication and enhance team work. In January 2016,

the Board's Management team met on four (4) different occasions. In February 2016, the team also met on five (5) different occasions. At the February 22, 2016 Management Team meeting, the Interim Executive Officer briefed the managers and supervisors on the key issues discussed during the February 20, 2016, Board Workshop on policy priorities and the directive from the Board to address the following issues as a matter of priority: [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

- All legal mandates
- Salton Sea restoration
- New River cleanup
- Development and implementation of Salt-Nutrient Management Plan for Coachella Valley
- Eliminate the threat from septic systems and implement environmental justice

Leadership Training—Training is on hold until the State Water Board approves the new contract with UC Davis. The current contract has run out of money. A Transition Team comprised of staff and supervisors has been activated to assist Upper Management develop and implement communication protocols and improve office-wide accountability. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

Electronic Content Management (ECM) Training—The Administrative Unit has coordinated with State Water Board Division of Information Technology staff to schedule ECM refresher training for Board staff on March 1, 2016. The training will be conducted in the office. [Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Manager]

Department of Defense Program—UST-Cleanup Unit staff officially transferred responsibility of the Program to Robert Perdue this month. Mr. Perdue will be managing and handling the policy and technical aspects of the Program. [Robert E. Perdue, P.G.]

Vacancies—The office is fully staffed (34 full-time staff) and has no vacancies. Regional Water Board staff will be requesting additional staff positions and hiring authority to deal with New River pollution from Mexico and regulatory oversight and assistance for Salton Sea restoration efforts. [Hilda Vazquez, SSM]

January 2016 Management Coordinating Committee (MCC) Meeting—The Interim Executive Officer participated on the January 25 and 26, 2016, face-to-face MCC meeting. The MCC is comprised of the Regional Water Boards Executive Officers, the State Water Board Executive Director, its Deputy Directors, and its Office of Chief Counsel. The key topics discussed during the meeting were the proposed Governor's budget and approved budget change proposals for SFY 16-17 and the State and Regional Water Boards' performance report for SFY 15-16. The proposed budget does not change the current annual budget for Region 7. It does include eighteen (18) new positions and \$82M for the Natural Resources Agency Salton Sea restoration efforts; and one (1) position for the State Water Board to provide legal assistance with the restoration efforts. It also includes augmentations of positions to the State Water Board Divisions of Drinking Water and Water Quality. During the MCC meeting, Jose L. Angel also presented a request from Baja California for assistance in obtaining surplus sewer system operation and maintenance equipment. A letter from State Water Board Chair Marcus went out to various organizations, including entities that represent sewer and water services, asking their support to assist Baja California.

Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB)

The GNEB is a federal advisory committee to the President and Congress on environmental issues along the US-Mexico Border. Jose L. Angel has been designated by CalEPA Secretary Rodriguez as the California representative for the GNEB. The GNEB typically provides its advice to the President and Congress in the form of an annual report and advice letters. Copies of the previous report and letter can be downloaded from:

<http://www.epa.gov/faca/good-neighbor-environmental-board-gneb-reports-president-united-states>

<http://www.epa.gov/faca/good-neighbor-environmental-board-gneb-comment-letters>

Mr. Angel attended the 2016 GNEB face-to-face meeting on February 9 and 10, 2016, which was held in Brownsville, TX. During the meeting, the GNEB began work on this year's annual report, which will address climate change resilience. Mr. Angel will be coordinating with other state agencies and CalEPA Boards, Departments, and Offices to represent the state's interest in the report. The report will be submitted to the President and Congress in December 2016. [Jose L. Angel, P.E.]

Regional Water Board Action Items

The following table shows the status of requests made by Regional Water Board Members.

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
Monitors/video screens for the back of Board Meeting Room	Board Members	11/19/2015	Progress is ongoing. Please see write up on Board Meeting Room Audio-Visual Improvement Project (p. 6) [<i>Hilda Vasquez, Mary Castaneda</i>]
Topock Tour and Cleanup Project Update	Board Members	11/19/2015	Scheduled for November 2016. Planning for Tour by PG&E is scheduled for November 9, 2016, at the Topock Compressor Station. Board Meeting will be held on November 10, 2016, in Needles (meeting location TBD). [<i>Robert Perdue, P.G.</i>]
Board Workshops for Information Items	Board Members	1/14/2016	1 st Workshop has been scheduled for 3/3/2016 2 nd Workshop is being scheduled for April 2016
Policy Prioritization Board Workshop	Board Members	1/14/2016	Was conducted on 2/20/2016:

Item	Requested by	Date Requested	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop minutes are presently being prepared • A report briefing the Board on what is being done on its priorities and a workplan with additional actions to address the priorities are being prepared
Board member would like to accompany staff on an inspection of a Wastewater Treatment Plant to see what the inspection entails	Board Member Crites	2/20/2016	Arrangements are being made to schedule typical Plant inspection in the Coachella or Imperial Valleys. Consultation is also under with State Water Board Industrial Hygienist to ensure Board member can safely accompany staff.
Imperial Valley Wetlands Tour	Vice Chair Wright	2/20/2016	Arrangements are under way with Desert Wildlife Unlimited to schedule a tour for Board members before the upcoming Summer